

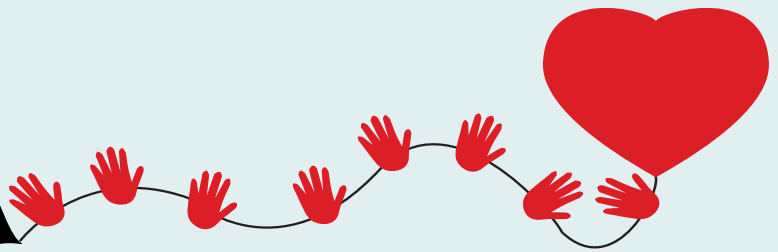


# Maricopa County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov)

August 2003



## New legislation opens limited number of dependency cases

In May of this year, Governor Napolitano signed into law SB1304, the Open Juvenile Proceedings Pilot Project. This law calls for a pilot project to be implemented which will open a limited number of juvenile court proceedings. The main provisions of this law establish that:

- DES, in collaboration with the Superior Court, Juvenile Division in Maricopa County, will implement a pilot project to open to the public at least five percent, but no more than ten percent, of the dependency, guardianship and termination of parental rights proceedings filed in the division, and determine if opening these proceedings to the public will promote due process while safeguarding privacy rights.
- Records relating to a proceeding that is open to the public are **not** open to public inspection.
- At the beginning of the proceeding, the court must ask the parties if there are any reasons the proceeding should be closed.
- The court must consider the following in opening proceedings: best interests of the child; privacy rights of the child, siblings; parents, guardians and caregivers. The court shall also consider whether all parties have agreed to allow the proceeding to be open.
- The court shall consider the request of a child to close a proceeding if the child is at least 12 years old and a party to the proceeding.
- When a hearing is open, at the beginning of the hearing, the court shall admonish all attendees that they are prohibited by order of the court from disclosing outside the hearing personally identifiable information about the child, family and others. Consequences of violating this admonishment will be explained.
- The court may close an open hearing at any time during the proceeding.

The Maricopa County Juvenile Court

### Peer Group Meetings

**Scottsdale** — 1:30 p.m.

Last Wednesday Of each month

Home of Mary Lou Davis

**No meeting in August**

**East Valley** — 6:30 p.m.

Third Wednesday of each month.

Home of Joe & Vicky Orlando

**Central Phoenix** — 6:30 p.m.

Third Wednesday of the month.

Home of Marcia Rysdon.

**West Valley** — 6:30 p.m.

Second Thursday of each month

Glendale Public Library

Host: Donna Spence

**Call the CASA Office for addresses and phone numbers.**

has been working on the implementation of this process during the past several months. The Court will be opening the cases of two of the judges at the Southeast Facility in Mesa. The juvenile hearings of Judges Klein and Stephens have been selected for this pilot project. This will affect those of you whose cases are heard by these judges in that you may see people other than interested parties in the courtroom during your hearing. Please remember your confidentiality agreement and do not give case information to any party other than the legal parties to the case. You may be approached by the media and/or relatives, friends or others who attend the hearing. **Remember that you cannot give information about the case, or your involvement in it.** If you have any questions about this, please call your Coordinator to discuss it.

Also, CASAs whose cases are heard by these judges **are** identified as one of the parties who may request that the hearing be closed. You would have to

state the reasons for this opinion.

This is a new development for our county and our courts. Dependency proceedings have been open in several other states for some time. During this pilot project, information and statistics will be gathered for purposes of evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the project. A final report will be due to the governor, legislative leadership and the chief justice of the Supreme Court by October 15, 2004.

### Another Judicial Rotation

The CASA Program says good-bye to Judge Janet Barton as she moves to the Civil Court on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Coming to Juvenile Court is Judge Pamela Franks, who is returning from a rotation in Criminal.



Franks

### Backpacks Available

The Theta Fraternity has once again graciously offered to provide back to school backpacks for our CASA children. The backpacks are always filled with school items and fun stuff. They will be available in the CASA offices at the end of August, so call your Coordinator if your CASA child is in need of one. Even if school has already started or will start soon, let your child and the child's placement know that they will be available!

### August Each One, Reach One Event

Our quest of recruiting male volunteers continues with Each One, Reach One events held at each juvenile courthouse, Durango and Southeast facilities. Commissioners Brian Rees and Steven Holding will be helping us out with the presentations. Please invite your male friends to come for this event.

The willingness of the Commissioners to become involved states how well our CASAs are received by the Court. Dates for each location are listed on the back in the Calendar of Events.

## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 9, 9 a.m.**

Detention Tour and Training  
Southeast Facility – Mesa  
Please RSVP – for specifics

**Aug. 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

CPS Abuse Investigations  
Durango – Room 223

**Aug. 14, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.**

Case Selection Training  
Durango – Room 223

**Aug. 21, 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.**

Each One, Reach One event  
Honorable Brian Rees  
Southeast Facility Courtroom

**Aug. 23, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

Each One, Reach One event  
Honorable Steven Holding  
Durango Courtroom

## CASA Kudos

The Foster Care Review Board commended the following CASAs for their continued dedication to the children on their cases:

- Mary Catledge
- Mark Zocco
- Denise Carpenter
- Janet Love
- Mary Jeanne Fincher
- Victoria Avina
- Melvin O'Donnell
- Karen Lodoen
- Lisa Sullivan
- Lynda Jo Taylor

### From the Court

Judge Mangum commended CASA Susan Smith on

her comprehensive court report, stating that it was the “best CASA court report he has ever read.”

Commissioner Rees thanked CASA Kera McMaster for her participation on her case.

### From the Community

Pam Shively, Social Worker for Gila River Indian Community, commended CASA Diane Renne for her efforts with the case.

### From the CASA Office:

We commend Judge

Dunevant and Adele James for the excellent publicity they provided to the CASA program through the article that profiled them in the Arizona Republic.

### From LaDonna

• Adele James for distributing her OpSat info in her community.

• Virginia Martin for sending in 3 of her community's newspapers.

• Ronald Piña and Vicki Aviña for being a part of our Hispanic Recruitment Team.

## CASA Welcome

The CASA program welcomes the following volunteers in training who have completed July OT:

Avris Daniels Patricia Riach  
Mary Hammer Cindy Quiroz

April Lane Leonard Shapiro  
Nikki Flake Linda Apostolakos  
Leneah Sweis Angela Fallon  
June Cole Jo Marie Lerner  
Raven Ross Janine Lisette  
Mary Neuling Kathryn Mary Lansden  
Mary Gibbs Casey Ruiz

## CASA Contacts and Information

### Locations

#### Durango

3125 West Durango, Suite 130  
Phoenix, AZ 85009  
FAX - 602.506.5512

Leslie Blakley	602.506.4082
Otis R. Evans	602.506.4425
Rita Laird	602.506.4083
Laurie Laughlin	602.506.3934
Bonnie Lodato	602.506.6491
Bonnie Marcus	602.506.5221
La Donna Benner	602.506.3930
Delaine Davis	602.506.4415

#### Southeast

1810 South Lewis Street  
Mesa, AZ 85210  
FAX - 602.506.6570

Rita Flores	602.506.3935
Grace Nabor	602.506.3379